3

THE GUIDING LIGHT

Friendship in Islam

A Collection of Quranic Verses and Sayings from the 14 Masumin

SUGGESTED AGES 8+

KISA KIDS PUBLICATIONS

GUIDED BY MOULANA NABI R. MIR (ABIDI)

Disclaimer: Religious texts have ***not*** been translated verbatim so as to meet the developmental and comprehension needs of children.

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to the beloved Imām of our time (ʿaj).
May Allah (swt) hasten his reappearance and help us to become his true companions.

Acknowledgments

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ): On the Day of Resurrection, the ink of the scholars will be weighed up against the blood of the martyrs, and the ink of the scholars will be heavier than the blood of the martyrs.
Nahj al-Faṣāḥah, Saying #3222.

True reward lies with Allah (swt), but we would like to sincerely thank Brother Aliakbar Shaheidari and Sisters Sabika Mithani, Liliana Villalvazo, Zahra Sabur, Noor Kraus, Fatima Hussain, Sumaiya Mithani, Fizza Moalem, Sajeda Merchant, Shahista Asgaraly, Sarah Assaf, Fatemeh Eslami, Israa Safieddine, Abeda Khimji, Zehra Abbas, Elham Shaheidari, and Rumina Hashmani. We would especially like to thank Nashr Kumeh Publications for their artwork and contributions.

May Allah (swt) bless them in this world and the next.

Marḥūmīn Dedication

For our daughter Shireen Ahsan, who loved the Ahl al-Bayt, and was loved by all around her,
please recite a Sūrah al-Fātiḥah.

Preface

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ):
Nurture and raise your children in the best way. Raise them with the love of the Prophets and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa).

Literature is an influential form of media that often shapes the thoughts and views of an entire generation. Therefore, in order to establish an Islamic foundation for the future generations, there is a dire need for compelling Islamic literature. Over the past several years, this need has become increasingly prevalent throughout Islamic centers and schools everywhere. Due to the growing dissonance between parents, children, society, and the teachings of Islam and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa), this need has become even more pressing. Al-Kisa Foundation, along with its subsidiary, Kisa Kids Publications, was conceived in an effort to help bridge this gap with the guidance of ʿulamāʾ and the help of educators. We would like to make this a communal effort and platform. Therefore, we sincerely welcome constructive feedback and help in any capacity.

The goal of *The Guiding Light* series is to help children learn that Islam is a holistic religion that shows the best way to lead our lives in all different areas!

With Duʿās,
Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

About the Board ʿĀlim

Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi) is a scholar, an educator, a father, and an enthusiast for creating educational infrastructure and Islamic resources for the benefit of the global community. Always wanting to think 'outside of the box' by supporting the creation of innovative materials to engage young readers to pick up Islamic books, interact with Qurʾānic games, learn from the Steps to Perfection Curriculum, and begin their life-long journey of holistic education.

Being a dedicated student and graduate of *Darse Khārij* from the *Ḥawzah* (the Highest Level of Islamic Studies in the Seminary), Moulana Abidi knows the value of Islamic education. Also, having grown up in India, and now residing in the United States, he has had the honor of traveling to various communities and meeting many community leaders. He values the importance of collaboration and working together to optimize potentials, and to create open source platforms so that information and resources are available and accessible to everyone around the world.

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You, dear reader, are now part of the Al-Kisa family.
Share the word, and join the mission.

3

Friendship in Islam

A Collection of Qur'ānic Verses and Sayings from the 14 Ma'sūmīn

Islam places great emphasis on friendship, especially having friendships that are rooted in the remembrance and love of Allah. Since our friends influence us greatly, we should select those people who remind us of Allah. When we have strong friendships, we are able to build a strong community, which creates a better future for the generations to come.

Lesson 1

Treat your friends like your brothers or sisters

إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ إِخْوَةٌ

Surely, believers are brothers (and sisters) to each other.

Sūrah al-Ḥujurāt, Verse 10

It was a very hot day on the battlefield, and the soldiers were defending Islam bravely. After the war ended, I was walking amongst the injured. I saw that one of the soldiers had lost a lot of blood and felt very thirsty, so I rushed to bring him some water.

The fallen soldier held me and said, "Brother, please take this water to the other soldier first. He's more thirsty than I am!"

I did as he said and ran towards the second soldier. However, when I offered it to him, he pointed to the third soldier and weakly said, "He's more thirsty than I am. Give the water to him."

When I reached the third fallen soldier, I saw that he had already become a martyr. So, I rushed back to the second soldier, but he, too, had become a martyr. I then rushed to the first soldier, but by that time, he had also joined his two brothers as a martyr. I was amazed by how they were all so willing to put the needs of others before their own!

Shahīd Muṭahharī, Vol. 17, P. 389

اِلْقَ اَخَاكَ بِوَجْهٍ مُنبَسِطٍ

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ):
Greet your friends with a smile on your face.

Mīzān al-Ḥikmah, #113

Lesson 2

Choose Honest People to Be Your Friends

وَكُونُوا مَعَ الصَّادِقِيْنَ

Be with the truthful

Sūrah at-Tawbah, Verse 119

There was once a man who loved Imām Ḥasan (ʿa) very much, so he asked him, Can I be your friend?"

"Yes, of course. We are already friends," answered the Imām (ʿa).

"But I want to be a close friend, not just any friend," the man insisted.

The Imām (ʿa) looked at him with kindness and replied, "Being a close friend has certain conditions. My closest friends should have three traits: (1) they do not praise me falsely, because I know myself better than anyone; (2) they do not lie to me, because lying is bad; and (3) they do not gossip."

The man stayed silent because he knew that he did not meet those conditions. But with hope in his eyes, he told the Imām (ʿa), "O Imām, please give me some time to develop these traits."

The Imām (ʿa) smiled and hugged the man. He comforted the man by telling him that they would soon become the best of friends, inshāʾAllāh, and that his company is always welcome. The man felt ever more inspired to become a better person and try to change his bad habits.

Kalimāt al-Imām al-Ḥusayn (ʿa), P.16

إِيَّاكَ وَ مُصَاحِبَةَ الْكَذَّابِ

Imām Muḥammad al-Bāqir (ʿa):
Beware of making friends with a liar.

Al-Kāfī, Vol. 2, P. 376

Lesson 3

Bring People Together

فَأَصْلِحُوا بَيْنَ أَخَوَيْكُمْ

Make peace between your brothers (and sisters).

Sūrah al-Ḥujarāt, Verse 10

In the time of Imām aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa), there lived two friends who were so close that they were like brothers. One day, however, they got into an argument and stopped talking to each other. When a wise man named Zurārah noticed that the two men were mad at each other, he decided to invite them to his house. After a long conversation about what went wrong, Zurārah realized that the two men were disagreeing over money.

"Here," said Zurārah, "take this money." The two men looked at the money with surprise and confusion.

"Imām aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa) has told me that whenever two people argue over money, I should give them money on his behalf to help them solve their problem," he explained. "So I'm giving you this money, but only if you go back to being good friends and promise not to argue anymore."

Feeling ashamed, the two men looked at each other and hugged. They thanked Zurārah and left the house in a good mood.

Uṣūl al-Kāfī, Vol. 2, Ḥadīth #3-4

صِلْ مَنْ قَطَعَكَ

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ):
If someone breaks their relationship with you,
you should try to fix it.

Tuḥaf al-ʿŪqūl, P. 305

Lesson 4

Avoid Namecalling

وَلَا تَنَابَزُوا بِالْأَلْقَابِ

And do not call each other bad names.

Sūrah al-Ḥujurāt, Verse 11

One day, Imām as-Sajjād (ʿa) was sitting with some of his friends, when a man came up to him and started calling him bad names. The Imām (ʿa) stayed patient and remained silent until the man finished and went home. Seeing this, his friends became enraged!

"How dare he talk to you like that!" exclaimed one friend.

"Why didn't you say anything to him?!" asked another.

The Imām (ʿa) tried to calm them down, but some of them darted out and headed to the man's home. The Imām (ʿa) did not want anyone to bother the rude man, so he said, "Follow me. I'll reply to the man myself."

As the Imām (ʿa) made his way to the man's house, he kept repeating a verse from the Qurʾān that talks about holding our anger and forgiving others. Everyone watched anxiously as the Imām (ʿa) knocked at the man's door. They were most curious to see how the Imām (ʿa) was going to deal with the rude man.

When the man came out, he grew scared seeing so many people gathered outside. The Imām (ʿa) kindly greeted the man and gently said, "My brother, if what you said about me is true, then I ask Allah to forgive me. But if what you said about me is not true, then I ask Allah to forgive you."

The man was shocked at the Imām's kindness. With a regretful heart, he kissed the Imām's forehead and said, "The things I said about you were not true!" Hanging his head in shame, he continued, "Those words apply more to me than anyone."
The Imām (ʿa) forgave the man, and they went on to become good friends.

Al-Burhān fī Tafsīr al-Qurʾān, Vol.1, P. 690

تَدْعُوهُ بِأَحَبِّ اَسْمَايِهِ اِلَيْهِ

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ):
Call your friends by their favorite names.

Nahj al-Faṣāḥah, #1293

Lesson 5

Give Good Gifts

وَ إِذَا حُيِّيْتُم بِتَحِيَّةٍ فَحَيُّوا بِأَحْسَنَ مِنْهَآ

And when someone greets you, reply with a better greeting.

Sūrah an-Nisāʾ, Verse 86

It was a day like any other in the marketplace. People were busy buying and selling, and customers were hunting for the best prices. Imām ʿAlī (ʿa) was also shopping with one of his workers, Qambar. He bought two shirts: the first one was very nice, and the second one was very plain.

"Here you go," said the Imām (ʿa), as he held out the more expensive shirt to Qambar. "This is for you, my dear friend."

Qambar was very touched. "O my beloved Imām! How can I take the better shirt? You should wear it!" he pleaded. "You are the one who stands in the masjid and speaks to large crowds of people!"

"But you are a young man, and I would feel embarrassed in front of Allah if I wore better clothes than you," said the Imām (ʿa). He remembered that the Prophet (ṣ) used to say, "Give your workers clothes that you would wear, and feed them with food that you would eat."

Biḥār al-Anwār, Vol. 5

تَهَادُوا تَحَابُّوا

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ):
Exchanging gifts will bring you closer to each other.

Mīzān al-Ḥikmah, #6369

Quiz Yourself!

1. Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) tells us to meet our friends with _____.
   a. a freshly cooked meal
   b. a big hug
   c. a smile on our face

2. Imām Ḥasan (ʿa) said that in order to be his friend, the man should _____. (Circle all that apply.)
   a. not gossip
   b. have a good sense of humor
   c. not lie

3. Imām aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa) told his friend that whenever there are two people arguing over money, he should give them money to help them _____.
   a. become richer
   b. fix their relationship
   c. start a business to help the poor

4. How did Imām as-Sajjād (ʿa) react to the man who said mean things to him?
   a. He stayed patient and did not reply.
   b. He replied with an āyah from the Qurʾān.
   c. He asked the man for an apology.

5. When Imām ʿAlī (ʿa) went with Qambar to the marketplace, he bought _____.
   a. two ʿaqīq rings: one that was blue and another that was red
   b. two shirts: one for Qambar and the cheaper one for him
   c. two loaves of bread: one for his family and one for Qambar

6. Choose one lesson from this book and explain how applying it in your life can make you a better friend.

Email your answers to QUIZZES@KISAKIDS.ORG, and we will send you a certificate!

Glossary

(ṣ): Peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muḥammad and his family

(swt): All Glory belongs to God, the Glorified and Exalted

(ʿa): Peace and blessings be upon him/her

(ʿaj): May God hasten his reappearance

Aḥādīth: Traditions from the Noble Prophet of Islam

Ahl al-Bayt: Divinely appointed family members of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ)

al-Fātiḥah: The first *sūrah* that is commonly recited and sent as a gift of prayer for the deceased

Alḥamdulillāh: All praise is for God

Allah: The Arabic term for God, a culmination of all His holy names and titles

ʿAqīq: A gemstone from the Quartz family that is recommended to wear

Duʿāʾ: Supplication; a deep connection and communication between an individual and God

Imām: A divinely appointed leader, sometimes refers to a spiritual leader

Imām Ḥasan (ʿa): The 2nd Imām (divine leader); his name means good-doer

Imām aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa): The 6th Imām (divine leader); his name means the truthful

Imām as-Sajjād (ʿa): The 4th Imām (divine leader); his name means the one who frequently does sajdah (prostration)

Imām ʿAlī (ʿa): The 1st Imām (divine leader); his name means the exalted

InshāʾAllāh: God-willing

Marḥūmīn: Someone who has passed away

Maʿṣūmīn: Infallibles

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ): The last and final Messenger of God

Qambar: The servant of Imām ʿAlī

Qurʾān: The Holy Book of Muslims

SubḥānAllāh: All Glory and Praise belongs to God

Sūrah: A chapter of the Qurʿān

ʿUlamāʾ: Scholars

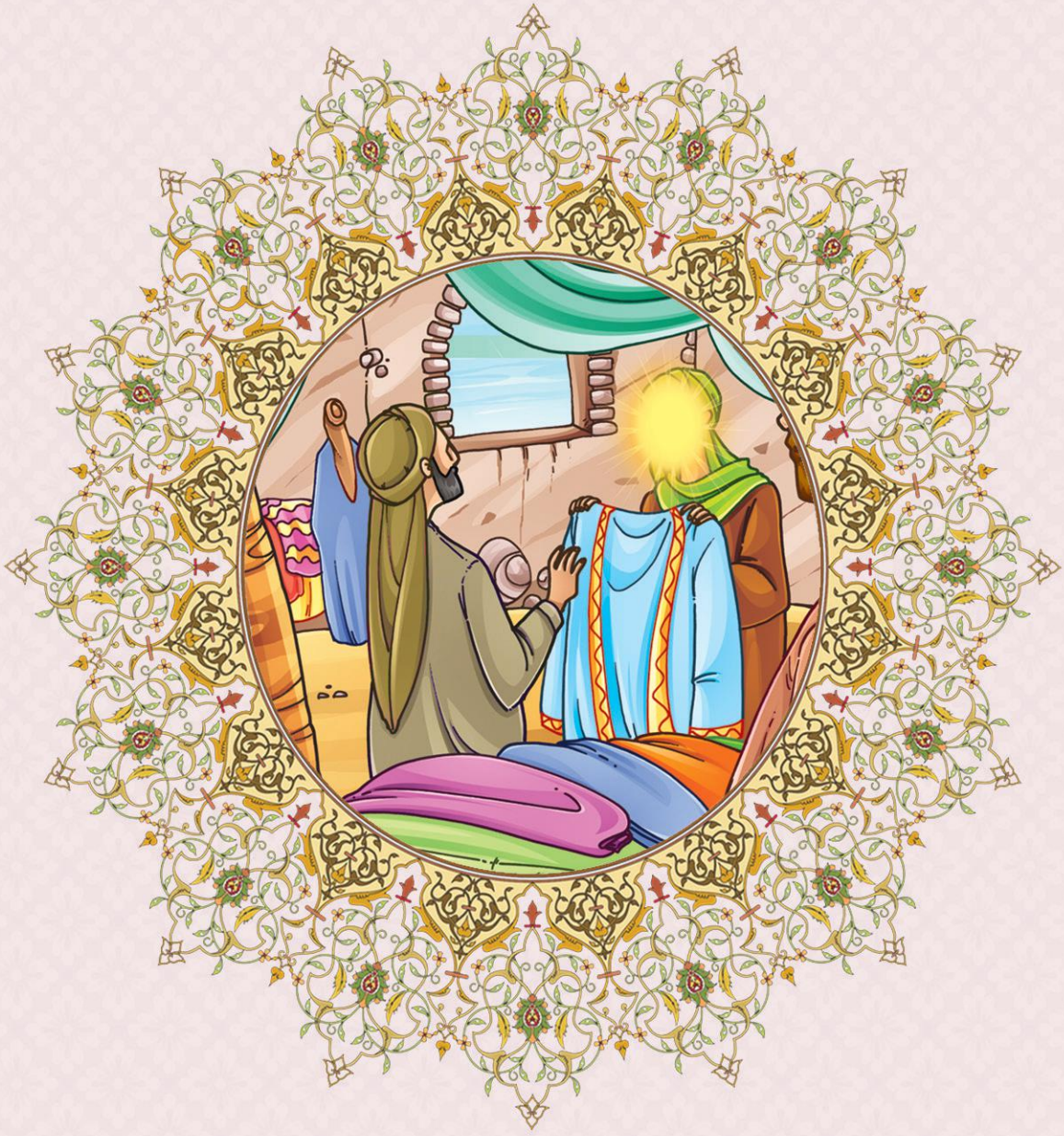
Transliteration Chart

Arabic terms in this book have been transliterated according to the following guidelines*:

ء	a, i, or u (initial form)
ء	ʾ (medial or final form)
ا	a
ب	b
ت	t
ث	th
ج	j
ح	ḥ
خ	kh
د	d
ذ	dh
ر	r
ز	z
س	s
ش	sh
ص	ṣ
ض	ḍ
ط	ṭ
ظ	ẓ
ع	ʿ
غ	gh
ف	f
ق	q
ك	k
ل	l
م	m
ن	n
ه	h
و	w
ي	y

ـَ	a
ـِ	i
ـُ	u
ـّ	double letter
آ / ـَا / ىٰ	ā
ـِي	ī
ـُو	ū

*Please note that due to limitations, the transliteration is not 100% accurate in capturing tajwīd rules.



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